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to do the people's business. The people elected us. The people didn't have any choice about what committees we were assigned to. Here we have an issue of critical importance in the minds of and in the lives of our Santee Native American citizens, and it only matters that it's important to them, in my opinion. Senator Beutler had a motion to pull the other day. Being the respecter of the process and the body that he is, the bill had been defeated in committee 7 to 1, he stood, he made his points, and he retreated. But I have long said committees aren't selected by whomever they're selected by, appointed by whatever random method they're appointed to sit as the "superbody" of the Legislature. And when I hear that an important group of our citizens are asking us to deal with an issue here on this floor in broad light of day and to cast a vote, which is what, as the kids would say, we're paid the big bucks to do, and to go on record, I don't think we ought to let the perception go out across the state that it depends on who's assigned to what committee, how the bill gets referenced, what those particular individual senators feel about the subject matter, or whether we don't know what the outcome will be on the floor. This issue matters to people in their lives. They are telling us it matters to them now. It's timely now. Three years from now is not timely. I hear that if it was referenced to one committee it would have come out; if it's referenced to another it didn't. That isn't the perception that I would have our citizenry believe matters and determines how their issues are decided. I believe the integrity of the process requires that we debate it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: I believe the integrity of the process requires that we vote upon it. I think we ought to do that timely because it's the people's business, because that's our process, that's when our process distinguishes itself. This is the way to do the people's business. I urge that we pull the bill and live to decide the issue then after we've heard the full debate. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Further debate, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the